

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims and ADD new claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CANCELED)

6. (NEW) A flat display device generating a discharge luminance, comprising:
a pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space in which a gas, used to generate the discharge luminance, is sealed; and
a protection plate in front of said pair of substrates, the protection plate having a material suppressing near infrared rays emitted by the generated discharge luminance; and
a casing accommodating said pair of substrates and said protection plate.

7. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 6, wherein said material is formed on a front surface or a back surface of said protection plate.

8. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 6, wherein said material is formed of a near infrared absorbent which is added to said protection plate.

9. (NEW) A flat display device, comprising:

a pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space in which a gas mixture including at least Xenon is sealed, a mixture ratio of said xenon in said gas mixture being equal to or

greater than 2% to afford a luminous spectrum comprised of near infrared rays; and
a material suppressing said near infrared rays emitted from said gas mixture.

10. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 9, further comprising:
a protection plate in front of said pair of substrates; and
said material being formed on a front surface or a back surface of said protection plate.

11. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 9, further comprising:
a protection plate in front of said pair of substrates; and
said material being formed of a near infrared absorbent which is added to said protection plate.

12. (NEW) A flat display device, comprising:
a display panel including a pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space in which a gas mixture including at least xenon is sealed, a mixture ratio of said xenon in said gas mixture being equal to or greater than 2% to afford a luminous spectrum comprised of near infrared rays; and
said display panel having a material suppressing said near infrared rays.

13. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein said material is provided on a front substrate of said pair of substrates.

14. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein said material is formed of a near infrared absorbent which is added to a front substrate of said pair of substrates.

15. (NEW) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein said material is formed of a near infrared absorbent and display electrodes, for discharging the gas between said pair of substrates, are covered with a dielectric film including a near infrared absorbent.

16. (NEW) A flat display device, comprising:
a display panel, comprising:
a front transparent substrate,
a plurality of display electrodes on the front transparent substrate,

a back substrate opposed to the front transparent substrate and defining a gas discharge space therebetween in which a gas used to generate a discharge is sealed,

a plurality of address electrodes provided on the back substrate, and

fluorescent layers covering respective address electrodes;

a protection plate at a predetermined distance from said display panel; and

a material formed on said protection plate and transmitting visible rays emitted from said fluorescent layers when irradiated with ultraviolet rays, generated by said gas discharge and suppressing near infrared rays generated together with said ultraviolet rays by said discharge.